

Summary

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Microdata: Childhood Education and Care, Australia, 2011 TableBuilder data has been reissued 8 July 2014.

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Introduction



INTRODUCTION

This product provides a range of information about the release of microdata from the Childhood Education and Care Survey (CEaCS), Australia, June 2011 including details about the survey methodology and how to use the Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) and TableBuilder. Data item lists and information on the conditions of use and the quality of the microdata, as well as the definitions used, are also provided.

Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the responses to individual questions on the questionnaire or data derived from two or more questions and are released with the approval of the Australian Statistician.

The CEaCS is collected every three years and is designed to provide a range of information about children aged 0–12 years and their families. The information collected includes the child care arrangements used by parents to care for their children, use of formal and informal care, cost and duration of the care and the attendance of children at preschool programs and other early childhood learning activities.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

The following microdata products are available from this survey:

- Expanded CURF via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and/or ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL)

which allows users to query the data via statistical languages

- TableBuilder – an online tool for creating tables and graphs.

Further information about these services, and other information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata in general, is available from the Microdata Entry Page.

Before applying for access, users should read and familiarise themselves with the information contained in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs, User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory and/or the User Manual: TableBuilder, depending on the product or products being accessed.

APPLY FOR ACCESS

To apply for access to the CURF, register and apply in MiCRO.

To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

Further information on access steps can be found on the How to Apply for Microdata page on the ABS web site.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the survey and the microdata products can be found in the various pages associated with this product, including:

- Data item lists for the Expanded CURF and TableBuilder, are available in the Downloads tab
- The Quality Declaration, Abbreviations and Glossary relating to these products can be found in the Explanatory Notes tab
- Other related products can be found on the Related Information tab.

SUPPORT

For further support in the use of these formats, please contact Microdata Access Strategies on 02 6252 7714 or via microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Data obtained in the survey but not included in the CURF or TableBuilder may be available from the ABS, on request, as statistics in tabulated form.

Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These are available, on request, on a fee for service basis. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au for further information.

Survey methodology



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

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SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The scope of 2011 CEaCS was Australian resident children aged 0–12 years and their families living in private dwellings in non-remote Australia. The survey therefore excludes:

- any non-resident children visiting Australia (children of diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia, or non-residents otherwise visiting Australia)
- residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals, hotels and motels.

The 2011 CEaCS also excluded, for practical coverage reasons, families where both parents/guardians were either members of the Australian permanent defence forces, or were temporarily overseas, or away from home for an extended period (See Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more detail). However, as long as at least one parent in the household was in scope for the Labour Force Survey (LFS), information about children aged 0–12 years and some information about their parents were able to be included in the 2011 CEaCS. In these cases all demographic and employment information is available for one parent and only limited information for the out of scope or coverage parent.

The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, except in the Northern Territory where such persons account for around 23% of the population.

The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in June 2011. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied that aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be negligible.

Persons who are away from their usual residence for six weeks or less at the time of the interview are enumerated at their usual residence (relevant information may be obtained from other usual residents present at the time of the survey). The LFS is described more fully in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

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DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

Information was collected between 5 and 18 June 2011, through interviews conducted with parents of children aged 0–12 years. Interviews were conducted either face-to-face or over the telephone, using computer assisted interviewing (CAI). Information about usual child care arrangements and usual preschool attendance is affected by the specific timing of data collection, the age of the child at that time, and state policies on age eligibility for enrolment at school and preschool which affect the likelihood of a child being enrolled at the time of the survey.

For interviews conducted between 5 and 11 June 2011, the reference week was 29 May to 4 June. For interviews conducted between 12 and 18 June, the reference week was 5 to 11 June, with the exception of those in Tasmania where the reference week was 29 May to 4 June to avoid Tasmanian school holidays.

In each selected household, detailed information about child care arrangements and early childhood education was collected for a maximum of two children aged 0–12 years. Information was obtained from an adult who permanently resided in the selected household and was either the child's parent or guardian. In households with more than two children aged 0–12 years, two children were randomly selected from within the same family and the complete set of information was collected for these children. Summary information was collected for other children in the family including the number attending child care and/or preschool and the cost of this care (including any rebates such as the Child Care Benefit). In households with multiple families information was collected for children from only one family.

This sampling methodology is similar to that used in 2005 and 2008. However, in 2005, in selected households with more than two children aged 0–12 years, two children were randomly selected from across all families in the household i.e. children could have been selected from two different families within a multi-family household.

More survey-specific information, including changes in the survey since 2008, the CCB and Child Care Rebate (CCR) or any other issues, can be found in the Explanatory Notes of Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2011 (cat. no. 4402.0).

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WEIGHTING, BENCHMARKING AND ESTIMATION

Weighting

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit which for CEaCS can be either person or a household. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

The first step in calculating weights for each sample unit is to assign an initial weight, which is the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a person being selected in the survey was 1 in 300, then the person would have an initial weight of 300 (that is, they represent 300 people).

Benchmarking

The initial weights were calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population rather than the distribution within the sample itself. Calibration to population benchmarks helps to compensate for over or under-enumeration of particular categories of persons/households which may occur due to either the random nature of sampling or survey non-response.

For person estimates, CEaCS was benchmarked to the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) as at 30 June 2011 in each state and territory, excluding the ERP living in very remote areas of Australia. For household estimates, CEaCS was benchmarked to independently calculate estimates of the total number of households in Australia with children aged under 13 years. CEaCS estimates do not (and are not intended to) match estimates for the total Australian person/household population obtained from other sources (which may include persons living in very remote parts of Australia).

Estimation

Survey estimates of counts of persons or households are obtained by summing the relevant weight for persons or households with the characteristic of interest.

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RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

All sample surveys are subject to error which can be broadly categorised as either sampling error or non-sampling error.

Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the total population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably measured as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Non-sampling error can occur at any stage throughout the survey process. For example, persons selected for the survey may not respond (non-response); survey questions may not be clearly understood by the respondent; responses may be incorrectly recorded by interviewers; or there may be errors when coding or processing the survey data.

Sampling error

One measure of the likely difference between an estimate derived from a sample of persons and the value that would have been produced if all persons in scope of the survey had been included, is given by the Standard Error (SE) which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of persons was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that the sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been surveyed and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

Another measure of the likely difference is the Relative Standard Error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate. Generally, only estimates (numbers, percentages, means and medians) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. In ABS publications, estimates with RSEs between 25% and 50% have been included with a cell comment to indicate they are subject to high sample variability and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are included with a cell comment to indicate that they are considered unreliable for general use. The formula for calculating the RSE of an estimate (y) is:

$$RSE(y) = SE(y)/y \times 100\%$$

where y = the estimate of interest

In addition to the main weight (as outlined earlier), each record on the CURF also contains 60 'replicate weights'. The purpose of these replicate weights is to enable the calculation of the standard error on each estimate produced. This method is known as the 60 group Jackknife variance estimator.

The basic concept behind this replication approach is to select different sub-samples repeatedly (60 times) from the whole sample. For each of these sub-samples the statistic of interest is calculated. The variance of the full sample statistics is then estimated using the variability among the replicate statistics calculated from these sub-samples. As well as enabling variances of estimates to be calculated relatively simply, replicate weights also enable unit record analyses such as chi-square and logistic regression to be conducted which take into account the sample design.

Further information about RSEs and how they are calculated can be referenced in the 'Technical Note' section of the following publication relevant to this microdata: Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2011 (cat. no. 4402.0). RSEs for estimates in the tables published in this publication are available in spreadsheet format, as

attachments to this publication.

Non-sampling error

Non-sampling error may occur in any collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a census.

One of the main sources of non-sampling error is non-response by persons selected in the survey. Non-response occurs when persons cannot or will not cooperate, or cannot be contacted. Non-response can affect the reliability of results and can introduce a bias. The magnitude of any bias depends upon the rate of non-response and the extent of the difference between the characteristics of those persons who responded to the survey and those that did not.

Every effort was made to reduce non-response and other non-sampling errors by careful design and testing of the questionnaire, training and supervision of interviewers, and undertaking extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

One advantage of the CAI technology used to conduct interviews is that it potentially reduces non-sampling error by enabling edits to be applied as the data are being collected. The interviewer is alerted immediately if information entered into the computer is either outside the permitted range for a particular question, or contradictory to information previously recorded during the interview. These edits allow the interviewer to query respondents and resolve issues during the interview. CAI sequencing of questions is also automated so that respondents are only asked relevant questions and in the appropriate order, thereby eliminating interviewer sequencing errors.

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File structure



FILE STRUCTURE

DATA AVAILABLE BY LEVEL

The format of the 2011 CEaCS microdata is structured across four levels. In the Expanded CURF these levels are available as four separate files. The levels are:

1. Income Unit level
2. Income Unit Care level
3. Child level
4. Child Care level

The Income Unit level and the Child level are linked with each other through an hierarchical relationship, i.e. each child at the Child level of the file is a member of an Income Unit. While the word 'family' is often used interchangeably with 'income unit' in CEaCS, the income unit may not include all members of a family, e.g. an employed 18 year old living at home but treated as a separate income unit. It should also be noted that, in families with more than two children aged 0–12 years, only two children were randomly selected for the survey with the complete set of information collected only for these children. Consequently, the Child level does not necessarily comprise all the children relating to the Income Unit. However, summary information was collected for the other child(ren) in the income unit, including the number attending child care and/or preschool and the cost of care, and this information is available at the Income Unit Care level. In households with multiple families information was only collected for the child(ren) from one family.

The Income Unit Care level is also linked to the Income Unit level. The Income Unit Care level contains records for the child care used by all children in the Income Unit for both the 'last week prior to the survey' and 'usually'. As mentioned above, the Income Unit Care level also includes some information for the child(ren) in the family not selected for the survey, as parents were asked for aggregated cost of care and use of care data for the other child(ren) in the family.

The Child Care Level is linked to the Child level. The Child Care Level contains information about each child care arrangement used by the child(ren), both for the 'last week prior to the survey' and 'usually'.

Further information about each level is provided below.

Income Unit level

The Income Unit level contains information about each parent of the selected child(ren) aged 0–12 years including

general demographic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, country of birth, labour force status, income and educational qualifications. This level also includes some household and family characteristics such as family composition and the number of children in the household. The geographic identifiers are also included on the Income Unit level (e.g. state/territory of usual residence, remoteness area). There are 5,670 records at the Income Unit level.

Income Unit Care level

The Income Unit Care level contains information about each episode of care the income unit used to care for their child(ren). This includes the types of care used, the cost of the care after Child Care Benefits (CCB) and/or Child Care Rebates (CCR) are deducted and whether the family claimed or intended to claim the CCB. An income unit can be counted more than once in each of these data items, if the income unit used more than one instance of care. There are 52,791 records at the Income Unit Care level.

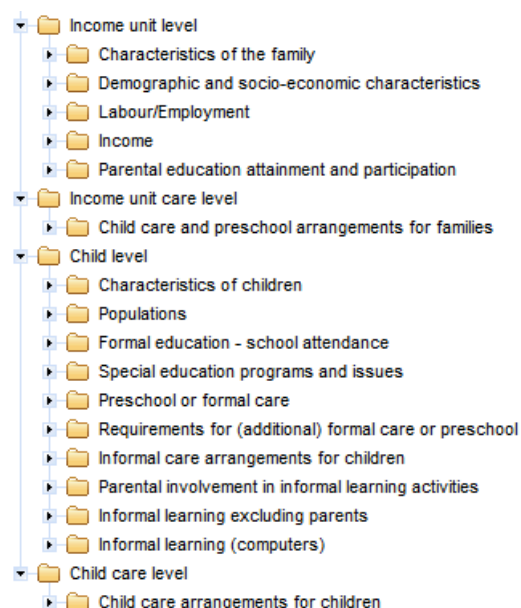
Child level

The Child level contains information about each selected child aged 0–12 years in the family such as age, sex, whether the child attends school, preschool or long day care, the main reasons for their use/non-use of child care services, school readiness and informal learning activities in which they have participated. A child can only be counted once, unless the data item is a multiple response item for that child. There are 8,799 unique records at the Child level.

Child Care level

The Child care level contains information about the child care arrangement(s) used by each selected child aged 0–12 years, both for the 'last week prior to the survey' and 'usually'. This includes each type of care used by the child, the frequency of use, weekly cost of care after the CCB and/or the CCR are deducted and whether the CCB was claimed for the care. A child can appear more than once in each data item on this level if they attend more than one type of care. There are 111,489 records at the Child Care level.

The following diagram shows a view of the four levels, as would be seen in TableBuilder, including the sub-categories under which the individual data items have been grouped. The CURF has the same structure as the TableBuilder, however it is available as four separate files. Complete data item lists for both the CURF and TableBuilder can be accessed from the Downloads page.



USING REPEATING DATASETS

The 'one to many' relationships described above for the links between the Income Unit level and the Income Unit Care level and the Child level and the Child Care level are also known as 'repeating datasets', i.e. an event or episode is repeated so that multiple records with the same set of data exist for the same child (or income unit).

For example, a child may have used more than one instance of child care such as (i) long day care centre, (ii) family day care and (iii) grandparents. Consequently, three records would be present on the Child Care level for this child, representing a repeating dataset, with each record containing information for a common set of data items, e.g. Number of days of care used, Number of hours of care used, cost of the care and so on.

In this example, although the three records all relate to a single child, any totals from the Child Care level are a count of child care arrangements.

Counting Units and Weights

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is the value which indicates how many population units are represented by the individual unit in the sample.

Estimates of children, income units and child care arrangements can be obtained when using the CEaCS microdata. It is therefore critical that the correct weight (or summation option) is used when specifying tables.

Income Unit weights (called Household weight on the CURF) are used for the Income Unit and Income Unit Care levels and Child weights are used for the Child and Child Care levels. For example, records at the Child Care level are weighted according to the characteristics of the child who attended child care, therefore the weights for each child care arrangement are the same as the weight for the child. In the example above, if the child has a weight of 600 and that child has attended the three types of care last week, then the child represents 600 children who attended a long day care centre, 600 children who attended family day care and 600 children who were cared for by grandparents. In total this represents 1,800 child care arrangements.

In general, the child weight is used if child estimates are required and the household weight (as named on the CURF) is used if estimates of income units are required. Child weights should be used when producing tables with data items solely from the Child level and Child Care level. Income Unit weights should be used when producing tables with data items solely on the Income Unit level and the Income Unit Care level. It is therefore critical that the correct weight (or summation option in TableBuilder) is used when specifying tables.

In summary, the Income Unit and Child levels can be considered to be 'counting units', while the Income Unit Care and Child Care levels are 'repeating datasets'.

Further information about the counting units and weights relating to each microdata product is provided in the Using the CURF and Using the TableBuilder sections.

Summary Records and Data Items

In addition to the general or base records present in the 'repeating datasets' (i.e. on the Income Unit Care and Child Care levels) that, for example, provide details about each instance of child care, there are also 'summary' records that provide aggregate information for selected groupings of the types of care. For example, summary records are available for groupings of formal care, informal care and all care.

In the example of a child who attended a long day care centre, family day care and also received care from a grandparent, there are three base records on the Child Care level because they attended three separate instances of child care. For each record the data item for the cost for the type of care was reported as \$38, \$10 and \$5 respectively. Therefore, the summary record for this child for the total cost of formal care (i.e. long day care centre and family day care) is recorded as \$48 (\$38 + \$10). Similarly, the summary record for this child for the total cost of all care (i.e. all three types of care) is recorded as \$53.

The following data items comprise the classifications that enable the data for these summary records to be tabulated:

Income Unit Care level – Type of care used by the family (SASName IUCINDX in the CURF).

Child Care level – All types of care (SASName CARINDX in the CURF).

NOT APPLICABLE CATEGORIES

Most data items included in the microdata include a 'Not applicable' category. The 'Not applicable' category generally represents the number of people who were not asked a particular question or the number of people excluded from the population for a data item when that data was derived (e.g. Year of Arrival in Australia is not applicable for people born in Australia). The classification value of the 'Not applicable' category may vary from data item to data item. Please refer to the data item lists in the Downloads tab.

SPECIAL CODES

For some data items, certain classification values have been reserved as special codes and should not be added as if they were quantitative values. In particular, the value for these codes should be excluded when calculating means, medians and modes. These special codes generally relate to data items such as income, cost of care and number of hours of care. For example, code 99999998 for the data items 'Weekly income of mother' and 'Weekly income of father', refers to income 'Could not be determined'.

Furthermore, the 'Not applicable' category may have different uses for a data item on the CURF compared to the

same data item on TableBuilder. For example, the 'Not applicable' category, 99999997, for the data item 'Weekly income of mother' on the CURF refers to no source of income or no mother in the income unit. Whereas the 'Not applicable' category for the data item 'Weekly income of mother' on TableBuilder refers to no mother in family. This is the same for 'Weekly income of father'. The 'Not applicable' category, 99999997, for the data item 'Weekly income of parent(s)' refers to no source of income on both the CURF and TableBuilder.

The data item lists in the Downloads tab provide all the categories, including special codes, that are applicable to each data item.

Using the CURF



USING THE CURF

ABOUT THE CURF

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ABOUT THE CURF

The data included in the CEaCS 2011 CURF are released under the provisions of the Census and Statistics Act 1905. This legislation allows the Australian Statistician to release unit record data, or microdata, provided that it is done "in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation to which it relates".

The ABS ensures confidentiality of the data by:

- removing name, address and any other information that might uniquely identify an individual
- changing a small number of values - particularly unusual values - and removing very unusual records
- controlling the detail available for all records on the CURF
- excluding some data items that were collected
- controlling the modes of access and restrict access to more detailed data
- placing restrictions on how the data are used, supported by information in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs and both the undertaking signed by the head of each organisation and the terms and conditions signed by each user.

As a result, data on the CURF will not exactly match other previously published estimates. Any changes to the distribution of values are not significant and the statistical validity of aggregate data is not affected.

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IDENTIFIERS

There are a series of unique identifiers on records at each level of the file. Households (or Income Units) have a household identifier (ABSHID) and children have a child identifier (ABSPID). Repeating datasets also have identifiers to identify the type of care used by the income unit (ABSIID) and the child's care (ABSCID).

File level identifiers

The following are the identifiers:

1. Income Unit = ABSHID
2. Income Unit Care = ABSHID, ABSIID
3. Child = ABSHID, ABSPID
4. Child Care = ABSHID, ABSPID, ABSCID

All these identifiers are on each level.

As well as uniquely identifying all units, the identifiers are vital, for associated units, for copying attributes from one

type of counting unit to another. For example, an income unit variable such as the labour force status of parents can be copied to all the children within the family. The means by which this might be done in SAS is illustrated below:

SAS CODE

```
PROC SORT DATA=CEC11E.CEC11EHH OUT=CEC11EHH; BY ABSHID;
PROC SORT DATA =CEC11E.CEC11EPN OUT=CEC11EPN; BY ABSHID ABSPID;
DATA MERGFILE (KEEP=ABSHID ABSIID ABSPID ABSCID LFSPAR);
MERGE CEC11EHH CEC11EPN;
BY ABSHID;
RUN;
```

SPSS CODE

```
GET
FILE=CEC11EHH.
SORT CASES BY ABSHID.
SAVE OUTFILE=SORTEDIU.
GET
FILE=CEC11EPN
/KEEP=ABSHID ABSIID ABSPID ABSCID.
SORT CASES BY ABSHID ABSPID.
SAVE OUTFILE=SORTEDCH.
MATCH FILES FILE=SORTEDCH
/TABLE=SORTEDIU
/BY ABSHID.
SAVE OUTFILE=MERGFILE.
```

The following is an example of an income unit where the data item LFSPAR has been copied from the Income Unit level onto the Child level.

TABLE 1: LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF CHILD'S PARENTS

ABSHID	ABSPID	LFSPAR
CEC11E0001	1	Couple family - one parent employed
CEC11E0001	2	Couple family - one parent employed
CEC11E0002	1	Couple family - both parents employed
CEC11E0002	2	Couple family - both parents employed

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USING REPEATING DATASETS

The Income Unit and Child levels are counting units, whereas the Income Unit Care and Child Care levels are repeating datasets. The repeating datasets in the CEaCS are a set of data with a counting unit which may be repeated for a child or an income unit. The 'one to many' relationships described in File Structure, for the links between the Income Unit level and the Income Unit Care level and the Child level and the Child Care level, shows the connection between counting units and repeating datasets, i.e. an event or episode is repeated so that multiple records with the same set of data exist for the same child (or income unit).

For example, a child may have used more than one instance of child care such as (i) a long day care centre, (ii) family day care and (iii) grandparents. Consequently, three records would be present on the Child Care level for this child, representing a repeating dataset, with each record containing information for a common set of data items, e.g. Number of days of care used, Number of hours of care used, cost of the care and so on. Also, the child will have summary records in addition to the individual care records, described below.

In this example, although the three records all relate to a single child, any totals from the Child Care level are a count of child care arrangements.

Repeating datasets are only useful when common information is collected for each instance of a counting unit. For example, each child in a family may have several instances of care (CARINDX) with a cost of care after the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate (COSTCCR) associated with it, for last week and usually (USLWFLG). Therefore, each child care unit has a cost of care after CCB and CCR (COSTCCR) associated with it. This enables a table to be run on all instances of care.

TABLE 2: EXAMPLE OF 'USUAL CHILD CARE COST' REPEATING DATASET

ABSHID	ABSPID	CARINDX	USLWFLG	COSTCCR(\$)
CEC11E0031	5	2 (long day care)	2	38
CEC11E0031	5	3 (family day care)	2	10
CEC11E0031	5	7 (grandparent care)	2	5
CEC11E0031	5	21 (all care)	2	53
CEC11E0031	5	22 (formal care)	2	48
CEC11E0031	5	23 (informal care)	2	5
CEC11E0031	5	32 (both formal and informal)	2	53

To run a table on the dataset outlined above, the following SAS code (or equivalent) can be used. This will give you output that shows the frequency of each cost (dollar value) for each type of care usually used by the single child:

```
PROC FREQ DATA=CEC11E. CEC11ECC;
WHERE USLWFLG = 2;
TABLE CARINDX*COSTCCR;
RUN;
```

Summary Records and Data Items

In addition to the general or base records present in the repeating datasets (i.e. on the Income Unit Care and Child Care levels) that provide details about each instance of child care, there are also 'summary' records that provide aggregate information for selected groupings of the types of care. For example, summary records are available for groupings of formal care, informal care and all care.

In the example of a child who attended long day care, family day care and also received care from a grandparent, there are three base records on the Child Care level because they attended three separate instances of child care. For each record the data item cost of care after CCB and CCR was reported as \$38, \$10 and \$5 respectively. Therefore, the summary record for this child for the total cost of formal care (i.e. long day care and family day care) is recorded as \$48 (\$38 + \$10). Similarly, the summary record for this child for the total cost of all care (i.e. all three types of care) is recorded as \$53.

The following data items comprise the classifications that enable the data for these summary records to be tabulated:

Income Unit Care level - Type of care used by the family (SASName IUCINDX).
Child Care level - All types of care (SASName CARINDX).

TABLE 3: EXAMPLE OF USUAL TYPE OF CARE, BY USUAL WEEKLY COST AFTER CCB AND CCR

	COSTCCR (USUAL WEEKLY COST OF CARE AFTER CCB AND CCR)				
	\$5	\$10	\$38	\$48	\$53
CARINDX (Type of care and/or preschool)					
Long day care	0	0	1	0	0
Family day care	0	1	0	0	0
Grandparent	1	0	0	0	0
Children who use care	0	0	0	0	1
Children who use formal care	0	0	0	1	0
Children who use informal care	1	0	0	0	0
Children who used both formal and informal care	0	0	0	0	1

Note that although the output above only relates to a single child, the totals are a count of all conditions for that child. That is, the table above shows the frequency of different costs for each type of care for an individual child.

As with the Child level file, some data items in a repeating dataset are only applicable to a particular sub-population of the dataset. For instance, the item 'Main reason intends to claim for the cost of formal care' from the Child Care level is only applicable for formal care. Records outside the sub-population will appear as a "Not applicable" e.g. children with just informal care or no care. In the Child Care level the usual or last week flag must be used. Refer to 'Using Flag Items'.

In addition, note that if you want to create ranged hours or cost tables which include custom totals for type of care (for example, all formal care excluding occasional care) you need to sum hours and cost for the types of care

included in your total to the Child level before ranging the result.

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USING FLAG ITEMS

To enable easier table specification and to ensure that the correct populations, and hence the correct data, are being tabulated, a number of 'flags' have been included in the CURF that should be used at all times when extracting data.

Usual or last week flag

There is a usual or last week care flag (USLWFLG) that allows users to look at a child's care usage for the reference week (last week) or their usual care usage. This flag is on the Child Care level. A similar flag at the Income Unit Care level (IUCSFLG) filters whether the care used by the family is on a usual or last week basis. These flags also include or exclude preschool from care used last week or usually.

It is imperative that the usual or last week care flags are used when any data items from the Child Care level or the Income Unit Care level are used, regardless of whether the care level data items are used alone or with other Child level or Income Unit level data items. If these flags are not used for child care or income unit care data items, the data will be incorrect.

The categories of the flags are:

1. Care usually used including preschool
2. Care usually used excluding preschool
3. Care used last week including preschool
4. Care used last week excluding preschool

Labour force scope flag

In households where all adults were out on scope of the LFS, no information was obtained for the 2011 CEaCS. However, as long as at least one parent in the household was in scope for the LFS, information about children aged 0–12 years and some information about their parents were collected and included in the 2011 CEaCS.

There is a labour force scope flag (LFSFLAG) to indicate whether the income unit is out on scope. This flag (present on the Income Unit level) indicates if one parent in a family was out on scope or coverage. Limited employment and demographic data are available for these families.

Information about the working arrangements used by parent/guardians to help care for their child was not available for parent/guardians who were out on scope or coverage of the labour force for any reason.

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MULTI-RESPONSE DATA ITEMS

A number of questions included in the survey allowed respondents to provide one or more responses. Each response category for one of these 'multi-response questions' (or data items) is basically treated as a separate data item. These data items have the same general data item identifier (SASName) but are each suffixed with a letter – A for the first response, B for the second response, C for the third response, D for the fourth response and so on.

For example, the multi-response data item 'All sources of income of parent(s)' (with a general SASName of ASCIPAR – see data item list), has five response categories. Consequently, five data items have been produced - ASCIPARA, ASCIPARB, ASCIPARC, ASCIPARD and ASCIPARE.

Each data item in the series (i.e. ASCIPARA-- ASCIPARE) will have two response codes: A 'Yes' response (for the first in the series (code 1), for the second in the series (code 2) etc.) and a 'Null' response (code 0) indicating that the response was not relevant for the respondent. The first data item in the series also includes a 'Not Applicable' response which comprises the respondents not asked the questions (e.g. ASCIPARA with a value of 9).

It should be noted that the sum of individual multi-response categories will be greater than the population or number of people applicable to the particular data item as respondents are able to select more than one response.

Multi-response data items can be identified in the data item list as SASNames followed by a range of letters in brackets; for example, ASCIPAR(A-E). They can also be identified in the CURF data item list with a # appended to the data item name (e.g. Usual education/care/parenting arrangements two years prior to attending school #).

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WEIGHTS AND ESTIMATION

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to take account of the method

of sample selection when deriving estimates. This is particularly important as a child's chance of selection in the survey varied depending on the state or territory in which they lived. Survey 'weights' are values which indicate how many population units are represented by the sample unit. See discussion in Survey Methodology.

There are two weights provided on the CEaCS CURF, as follows:

- HHWGT - household weight, for use with Income Unit and Income Unit Care levels
- CHWGHT - child weight, for use with Child and Child Care levels

The weight for the relevant level should be applied when deriving estimates from the CURF. It is essential to apply the appropriate weight for the required estimate, rather than just derive a count of records falling into each category. If a child or household weight were to be ignored, then no account would be taken of a child's or household's chance of selection in the survey or of different response rates across population groups, with the result that counts produced could be biased.

The application of weights ensures that:

- child estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex, state/territory and section of state, and
- household estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of households by certain household characteristics (e.g. by number of adults and children), rather than to the distributions within the sample itself.

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STANDARD ERRORS

Each record on the each of the levels also contains 60 replicate weights and, by using these weights, it is possible to calculate standard errors for weighted estimates produced from the microdata. This method is known as the 60 group Jack-knife variance estimator. When calculating standard errors, it is important to select the replicate weights which are most appropriate for the analysis being undertaken. The replicate weights are as follows:

- WHM0101-WHM0160 - use for Income Unit and Income Unit Care levels
- WPM0101-WPM0160 - use for Child and Child Care levels.

Under the Jackknife method of replicate weighting, weights were derived as follows:

- 60 replicate groups were formed with each group formed to mirror the overall sample (where units from a collection district all belong to the same replicate group and a unit can belong to only one replicate group)
- one replicate group was dropped from the file and then the remaining records were weighted in the same manner as for the full sample
- records in that group that were dropped received a weight of zero.

This process was repeated for each replicate group (i.e. a total of 60 times). Ultimately each record had 60 replicate weights attached to it with one of these being the zero weight.

Replicate weights enable variances of estimates to be calculated relatively simply. They also enable unit record analyses such as chi-square and logistic regression to be conducted which take into account the sample design. Replicate weights for any variable of interest can be calculated from the 60 replicate groups, giving 60 replicate estimates. The distribution of this set of replicate estimates, in conjunction with the full sample estimate (based on the general weight) is then used to approximate the variance of the full sample.

To obtain the standard error of a weighted estimate y , the same estimate is calculated using each of the 60 replicate weights. The variability between these replicate estimates (denoting $y(g)$ for group number g) is used to measure the standard error of the original weighted estimate y using the formula:

$$SE(y) = \sqrt{(59/60) \sum_{g=1}^{60} (y(g) - y)^2}$$

where:

g = the replicate group number

$y(g)$ = the weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group g

y = the weighted estimate from the sample.

The 60 group Jack-knife method can be applied not just to estimates of the population total, but also where the

estimate y is a function of estimates of the population total, such as a proportion, difference or ratio. For more information on the 60 group Jack-knife method of SE estimation, see Research Paper: Weighting and Standard Error Estimation for ABS Household Surveys (Methodology Advisory Committee), July 1999 (cat. no. 1352.0.55.029).

Use of the 60 group Jack-knife method for complex estimates, such as regression parameters from a statistical model, is not straightforward and may not be appropriate. The method as described does not apply to investigations where survey weights are not used, such as in unweighted statistical modelling.

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GEOGRAPHY

To enable analysis at a regional level, each record on the CURF contains a state/territory identifier (STATECF) and two sub-state identifiers – Capital city/Balance of state/Territory (AREAOUT) and Remoteness structure (AREAREMC). The AREAOUT geographic data item has two output categories – Capital city and Balance of state/Territory. Only the capital city statistical divisions (as defined in the Australian Standard Geographical Classification ASGC (cat. no. 1216.0)) of the six states are included in the Capital city category. All other regions in Australia, including the territory capitals Darwin and Canberra, are classified to the Balance of state/Territory category.

Conditions of Use of Geographic Data Items

To provide CURF users with greater flexibility in their analyses, the ABS has included several sub-state geography data items (as described above) on the Expanded CURF.

Conditions are placed on the use of these items. Tables showing multiple data items, cross tabulated by more than one sub-state geography at a time are not permitted due to the detailed information about small geographic regions that could be presented. However, simple cross-tabulations of population counts by sub-state geographic data items may be useful for clients in order to determine which geography item to include in their primary analysis, and such output is permitted.

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CURF FILE NAMES

The 2011 CEaCS Expanded CURF can be accessed through the RADL and is available in SAS, SPSS and STATA formats. The CURF comprises the following files:

Data files

SAS Files

These files contain the data for the CURF in SAS format.

CEC11EHH.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF Income Unit level file in SAS for Windows format.

CEC11EIC.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF Income Unit Care level file in SAS for Windows format.

CEC11EPN.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF Child level file in SAS for Windows format.

CEC11ECC.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF Child Care level file in SAS for Windows format.

SPSS Files

These files contain the data for the CURF in SPSS format.

CEC11EHH.SAV - the CEaCS CURF Income Unit level file in SPSS format.

CEC11EIC.SAV - the CEaCS CURF Income Unit Care level file in SPSS format.

CEC11EPN.SAV - the CEaCS CURF Child level file in SPSS format.

CEC11ECC.SAV - the CEaCS CURF Child Care level file in SPSS format.

STATA FILES

These files contain the data for the CURF in STATA format.

CEC11EHH.DTA - the CEaCS CURF Income Unit level file in STATA format.

CEC11EIC.DTA - the CEaCS CURF Income Unit Care level file in STATA format.

CEC11EPN.DTA - the CEaCS CURF Child level file in STATA format.

CEC11ECC.DTA - the CEaCS CURF Child Care level file in STATA format.

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INFORMATION FILES

Data Item List

The Data item list contains all the data items, including details of categories and code values, that are available on the Expanded CURF. It is available on the Downloads tab.

Formats File

FORMATS.SAS7BCAT - the SAS format file which provides labels for associated code values in the SAS version of the CURF.

Frequency Files

FREQUENCIES_CEC11EHH.TXT - contains weighted and unweighted frequency counts for all Income Unit level data items. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_CEC11EIC.TXT - contains weighted and unweighted frequency counts for all Income Unit Care level data items. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_CEC11EPN.TXT - contains weighted and unweighted frequency counts for all Child level data items. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_CEC11ECC.TXT - contains weighted and unweighted frequency counts for all Child Care level data items. The file is in plain text format.

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Using the TableBuilder



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FIELD EXCLUSION RULES

For general information relating to the TableBuilder or instructions on how to use features of the TableBuilder product, please refer to the User Manual: TableBuilder, 2013 (cat. no. 1406.0.55.005).

More specific information relevant to the Childhood Education and Care Survey (CEaCS) TableBuilder, which should enable users to understand and interpret the data, is outlined below.

REISSUE OF TABLEBUILDER PRODUCT FOR 2011 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SURVEY

The TableBuilder dataset file for CEaCS has been reissued to correct errors identified in the data released on 19th June 2013. For details on changes, see History of Changes

MULTI-RESPONSE DATA ITEMS

A number of questions included in the survey allow respondents to provide more than one response. The data items resulting from these questions are referred to as 'multi-response data items'.

An example is shown below where a parent can report all types of involvement in informal learning activities last week with a child aged 0–2 years. (Note: the 'Not applicable' category comprises those respondents who were not asked the particular question, e.g. a child who is aged 3–12 years is considered 'Not applicable' to this data item).

Parental involvement in informal learning activities

- Informal learning (0-2 year olds)
 - Parental involvement in informal learning activities with child last week (0-2 years) [8] ▶
 - ☒ Read from a book and/or tell a story
 - ☐ Watch TV, videos or DVDs
 - ☒ Assist with drawing, writing or other creative activities
 - ☐ Play music, sing songs, dance or do other musical activities
 - ☒ Physically active play
 - ☐ Take part in or attend a playgroup
 - ☐ None of the above
 - ☐ Not applicable

When a multiple response data item is tabulated, the same record (or child in this case) is counted against each response they have provided (e.g. a child who was Read from a book, Assisted with drawing and engaged in Physically active play will be counted one time in each of those three categories).

A category exists for children who are in scope of the population but did not provide a valid response to any other categories (e.g. a child who did not have parental involvement in informal learning activities will fall into the category 'None of the above').

As a result, each child in the particular population is counted at least once, and some children are counted multiple times. Consequently, the sum of individual multi-response categories will be greater than the population or actual number of people applicable to the data item as respondents are able to select more than one response.

Multi-response data items are identified in the CEaCS TableBuilder data item list with a # appended to the data item name (e.g. Usual education/care/parenting arrangements two years prior to attending school #).

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USING REPEATING DATASETS

The Income Unit and Child levels are counting units, whereas the Income Unit Care and Child Care levels are repeating datasets. The repeating datasets in the CEaCS are a set of data with a counting unit which may be repeated for a child or an income unit. The 'one to many' relationships described in File Structure for the links between the Income Unit level and the Income Unit Care level, and the Child level and the Child Care level, shows the connection between counting units and repeating datasets, i.e. an event or episode is repeated so that multiple records with the same set of data exist for the same child (or income unit).

For example, a child may have used more than one instance of child care such as (i) a long day care centre, (ii) family day care and (iii) grandparents. Consequently, three records would be present on the Child Care level for this child, representing a repeating dataset, with each record containing information for a common set of data items, e.g. Number of days of care used, Number of hours of care used, cost of the care and so on. Also, the child will have summary records in addition to the individual care records, described below.

In this example, although the three records all relate to a single child, any totals from the Child Care level are a count of child care arrangements.

Summary Records and Data Items

In addition to the general or base records present in the repeating datasets (i.e. on the Income Unit Care and Child Care levels) that, for example, provide details about each instance of child care, there are also 'summary' records that provide aggregate information for selected groupings of the types of care. For example, summary records are available for groupings of formal care, informal care and all care.

In the example of a child who attended long day care, family day care and also received care from a grandparent, there are three base records on the Child Care level because they attended three separate instances of child care. For each record, the data item for the cost for the type of care was reported as \$38, \$10 and \$5 respectively. Therefore, the summary record for this child for the total cost of formal care (i.e. long day care and family day care) is recorded as \$48 (\$38 + \$10). Similarly, the summary record for this child for the total cost of all care (i.e. all three types of care) is recorded as \$53.

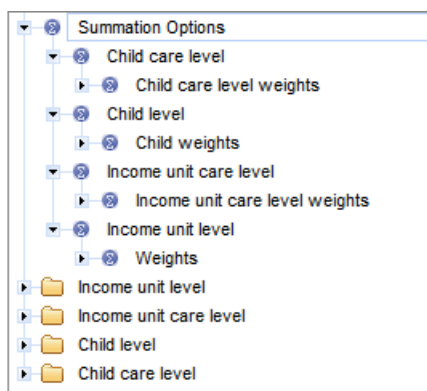
The following data items comprise the classifications that enable the data for these summary records to be tabulated:

Income Unit Care level - Type of care used by the family.
Child Care level - All types of care.

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COUNTING UNITS AND WEIGHTS

The **Summation Options** section in the **Customise Table** panel contains the counting units/weights that are available. As mentioned in the File Structure section it is critical that the correct weight (or summation option) is used when specifying tables. The names of the weights (summation options) for each level are shown below.



The default summation option in this TableBuilder is the Income Unit level weight (Weights). The default summation option will be automatically added to a table when the table is being specified - so care needs to be taken that this is the correct weight required for the particular tabulation. If the default weight is not the required weight then select the correct weight from the Summation Options list, because what is counted in a table depends on the weight or counting unit selected.

In general, the Child weight is used if child estimates are required and the Income Unit weight is used if estimates of income units are required. Child Care level weights should be used when producing tables with data items from the Child Care Level. Income Unit Care level weights should be used when producing tables with data items from the Income Unit Care level.

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USING FLAG ITEMS

To enable easier table specification and to ensure that the correct populations, and hence the correct data, are being tabulated, a number of 'flags' have been included in the TableBuilder that should be used at all times when extracting data.

Usual or Last week

To differentiate between child care used in the 'last week prior to the survey' and care 'usually' used, data items (or flags) are available to restrict the population in a table for this purpose. These flags are on the Income Unit Care and Child Care levels.

It is imperative that these usual or last week care flags are used when any data items from the Child Care level or the Income Unit Care level are used, regardless of whether the care level data items are used alone or with other Income Unit or Child level data items. If these flags are not used for Child Care or Income Unit Care data items, the data will be incorrect.

The flags and their categories are:

Income Unit Care level

- Flag to indicate if any child in family used care usually
 - 0. No children in the family used care usually
 - 1. At least one child in the family used care usually
- Flag to indicate if any child in family used care last week
 - 0. No children in family used care last week
 - 1. At least one child in the family used care last week

Child Care level

- Flag to indicate whether care used usually
 - 0. Care not used usually
 - 1. Care used usually
- Flag to indicate if care used last week
 - 0. Care not used last week
 - 1. Care used last week

Labour force scope flag

In households where all adults were out on scope of the LFS, no information was obtained for the 2011 CEaCS. However, as long as at least one parent in the household was in scope for the LFS, information about children aged

0–12 years and some information about their parents were collected and included in the 2011 CEaCS.

There is a labour force scope flag (Labour force flag - indicating whether parent did not respond to LFS) to indicate whether the income unit is out on scope. This flag (present on the Income Unit level) indicates if one parent in a family was out on scope or coverage. Limited employment and demographic data are available for these families.

Information about the working arrangements used by parent/guardians to help care for their child was not available for parent/guardians who were out on scope or coverage of the labour force for any reason.

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CROSS-TABULATING DATA ITEMS FROM DIFFERENT LEVELS

General Information

Cross-tabulating data items from different levels will produce different results depending on the weights that are used. It is therefore important to understand how TableBuilder works and what is being counted. Estimates will always be produced in TableBuilder - but care must be taken to ensure that they are logical and correct.

In general, when cross-tabulating data items from different levels using the weight from the lower level, the results are the sum of the counting units or weights at the lower level. For example, if cross-tabulating 'State or territory of usual residence' from the Income Unit Level (i.e. the higher level) by 'Sex of selected child' from the Child Level (i.e. the lower level) while using the lower (Child) level weight, then the results will be the sum of children - as this is the counting unit on the Child Level. In simple terms, TableBuilder effectively copies the data from the higher level to each record on the lower level and then sums the relevant records at the lower level. In this example, the table will produce estimates of the number of male children and female children by State/Territory.

When cross-tabulating data items from different levels using the weight from the higher level things are more complicated and care needs to be taken. Under this scenario, fields at the lower level effectively become multi-response fields at the higher level and, in addition, each category in a data item is tabulated as 'one or more occurrences with the particular characteristic(s)'. For example, if there are two male children in the same Income Unit then the results are tabulated, and should be interpreted, as an estimate of the 'number of Income Units with one or more male children' - in this case the Income Unit is only counted once. If there is one male and one female child in the same Income Unit then the Income Unit is counted twice (i.e. multi-response) with the male child included in the estimate of the 'number of Income Units with one or more male children' and the female child from the same Income Unit included in the estimate of the 'number of Income Units with one or more female children'. It is important to note that the totals in these types of tables indicate the actual estimate of Income Units (i.e. each Income Unit counted only once) while the component cells, which contain the multi-response concept, will be greater than the total.

It is therefore critical that the construction of a table, when cross-tabulating data items from different levels using the weight from the higher level, is conceptually well considered. For some data items the data tabulated may not be particularly useful or logical. For this reason the CEaCS TableBuilder contains particular data items that enable easier and more logical specification of cross-tabulations. These data items comprise filtering or index data items, flags and population data items.

The main filtering or index data items are 'Type of care used by the family' on the Income Unit Care Level and 'All types of care' on the Child Care Level. Also, on both the Income Unit Care and the Child Care Levels, there are flags that indicate whether care was 'usually' used or used 'in the last week' prior to the survey. And finally, some population data items (such as 'Children aged 0–8 years') are included on the Child Level.

These data items should be used in almost all tables as they restrict or filter particular populations and determine the correct types of care that have been used. More importantly, they eliminate many of the complexities when cross-tabulating data items from different levels. The following examples show how these data items are used.

Example 1: Cross-tabulating Child level data items by Income Unit level data items using different weights.

The table below uses the data items 'State or territory of usual residence' from the Income Unit level and 'Whether child attends school' from the Child level. The Child level weight is used as it is the lowest level. The result is a count of the number of children attending school by state.

Whether child attends school by Number of Child level and State or territory of usual residence

Counting: Number of Child level

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 36 (9 columns x 4 rows).

	Number of Child level (000's)							
State or territory of usual residence 	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Terri
Whether child attends school 	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓
Attends school	346.2	243.0	233.5	73.1	110.3	22.7	9.1	16
Does not attend school	98.2	95.4	60.7	20.6	33.3	8.7	2.9	5
Age less than 4 years	374.2	284.9	250.6	79.1	122.2	27.8	10.8	19

Using the same table as above, but replacing the Child level weight with the Income Unit level weight, the result is a count of the number of Income Units (i.e. families) with at least one child attending school. If a family has a child attending school and a child aged less than 4 years this family will be counted twice. Therefore, 'Whether child attends school' is treated as a multi-response data item when the Income Unit weight is used.

Whether child attends school by Number of Income unit level and State or territory of usual residence

Counting: Number of Income unit level

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 36 (9 columns x 4 rows).

	Number of Income unit level (000's)							
State or territory of usual residence 	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Terri
Whether child attends school 	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓
Attends school	263.5	200.6	181.8	58.1	87.1	18.0	6.8	13
Does not attend school	84.5	82.1	56.6	20.9	27.7	7.1	2.2	5
Age less than 4 years	279.0	211.1	177.1	55.7	94.3	20.6	8.9	15

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Example 2: Cross-tabulating Child level data items by Child Care level data items using Child Care level weight.

Most cross tabulations done within the CEaCS publication involved a data item called 'All types of care' found on the Child Care level. Understanding how this data item works is instrumental as it can result in miscounts if used incorrectly.

Below are the output categories for this data item:

00. No care or preschool
01. Before and/or after school care
02. Long day care centre
03. Family day care
04. Occasional care centre
06. Grandparent
07. Brother/sister
08. Non-resident parent
09. Other relative
10. Other person
21. All care and preschool
22. All formal care
23. All informal care
24. Preschool
25. All care excluding preschool
31. Used formal, used informal, used preschool
32. Used formal, used informal, no preschool
33. Used formal, no informal, used preschool
34. Used formal, no informal, no preschool
35. No formal, used informal, used preschool
36. No formal, used informal, no preschool
37. No formal, no informal, used preschool

Categories 00 to 10 and 24 can be interpreted as a multi-response item within this data item. A child can have a

response to any of these types of care and can appear more than once.

Categories 21, 22, 23 and 25 must be used when calculating totals for formal care, informal care and all care. This is because a child must only appear once when calculating totals. You cannot sum formal care types or informal care types as the total will not represent the sum value for each child, but the number of instances of each type of care, resulting in double counting. This is particularly important when cross-tabulating the 'all types of care' with another variable which may differ between different types of care for the same child (e.g. cost of care or days attended).

For example, consider creating a table cross-tabulating the type of care by cost of child care last week in \$20 ranges. If a child attended family day care at a cost of \$40 and occasional care at a cost of \$20, that child should appear once in the 'all formal care' row with a value of \$60. This is the result that will be produced by using the category 21 to get a total of 'all formal care'. If categories 01, 02, 03 and 04 were summed together to create a total for 'formal care', this child would appear twice in the 'total formal care' row, once with a value of \$20 and once at \$40. They would not appear with their true value of \$60 for cost for care.

The table below is the number of children with a cost of care last week after CCB and CCR in broad ranges by formal care types. It shows that the sum of the formal care types is not equal to the 'All formal care' category. For the cost range \$10-\$19, the sum of the components is 83.9, whereas the total of All formal care is 80.3.

All types of care by Number of Child care level, Flag to indicate if care used last week and Estimated net cost after the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Counting: Number of Child care level

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 120 (20 columns x 6 rows).

Number of Child care level		Number of Child care level (000's)							
Flag to indicate if care used last week		Care used last week							
Estimated net cost after the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate last week - categories		No cost	\$1-\$9	\$10-\$19	\$20-\$39	\$40-\$59	\$60-\$79	\$80-\$99	\$10
All types of care		↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	
Before and/or after school care		11.1	25.6	45.6	61.4	37.5	19.3	6.0	
Long day care centre		16.2	6.4	23.5	70.9	67.5	66.4	38.2	
Family day care		4.4	5.7	8.8	18.1	8.2	7.8	4.3	
Occasional care centre		2.7	3.1	6.0	5.6	1.5	1.8	0.0	
All formal care		28.4	39.6	80.3	153.0	115.8	92.6	46.7	

Categories 31 to 37 must also be used when calculating totals. For example, to determine how many children attend both family day care, grandparent care but don't attend preschool, use the 'Used formal, used informal, no preschool' category which is category 32. This is because if you group together these items (categories 03 and 06) to generate a total, then a child will appear twice in this total, resulting in double counting. Using category number 32 only counts the child once.

The 'All types of care' data item, includes responses for both attendance last week and usually. To generate frequencies for care usually used by the child, select the data item called 'Flag to indicate whether care used usually' and select 'Care used usually' and use this as a filter to restrict the table population. This same logic applies for tables generating frequencies for care arrangements used 'last week'.

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Example 3: Cross-tabulating Income Unit level data items by Child level data items by Child Care level data items using Child Care level weight.

The table below is a count of the number of instances of care for children aged 0–8 years who usually use care by state. It uses the data items, 'State or territory of usual residence' from the Income Unit level, 'Children aged 0–8 years' from the Child level and 'All type of care' and 'Care used usually' from the Child Care level. The weight used is the Child Care level weight as the lowest level used is Child Care level. In this example, as it is a count of the instances of care, 'Care used usually' or 'Care used last week' must be used otherwise some double counting will result. A total can't be calculated for 'All types of care' as this data item is treated as a multi-response data item. Totals are available in the summary records for the data item 'All types of care' (i.e. All care and preschool, All formal care, All informal care and All care excluding preschool).

All types of care by Number of Child care level, Flag to indicate whether care used usually, Children aged 0-8 years and State or territory of usual residence
Counting: Number of Child care level

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 396 (36 columns x 11 rows).

Number of Child care level		Number of Child care level (000's)							
Flag to indicate whether care used usually		Care used usually							
Children aged 0-8 years		Children aged 0-8 years							
State or territory of usual residence		New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory
All types of care		↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓
Before and/or after school care		55.4	50.6	40.9	13.9	14.0	3.1	2.5	
Long day care centre		151.4	120.8	123.8	30.6	41.2	10.7	3.7	
Family day care		24.8	18.2	19.6	5.3	3.9	2.7	0.9	
Occasional care centre		1.7	12.3	2.3	2.1	2.3	0.5	0	
Grandparent		239.3	166.9	121.4	63.6	81.2	18.7	4.5	
Brother/sister		9.0	4.7	9.5	1.5	4.1	1.1	0.7	
Non-resident parent		48.1	39.6	27.3	12.9	12.3	5.3	0.8	
Other relative		34.9	35.3	20.1	10.7	17.3	2.2	1.5	
Other person		49.4	41.7	25.7	7.5	17.9	3.9	1.1	
Preschool		73.6	95.5	34.7	20.3	36.4	9.1	2.6	

Example 4: Cross-tabulating Income Unit level data items by Income Unit Care level data items using Income Unit Care weight.

The table below is a count of the number of instances of care for families with at least one child usually using care by state/territory. It uses the data items, 'State or territory of usual residence' from the Income Unit level and 'Type of care used by family' and 'At least one child in the family used care usually' from the Income Unit Care level. The weight used is the Income Unit Care level weight as the lowest level used is Income Unit Care level. In this example, as it is a count of the instances of care, 'At least one child in the family used care usually' or 'At least one child in the family used care last week' must be used otherwise some double counting will result.

Type of care used by the family by Number of Income unit care level, Flag to indicate if any child in family used care usually and State or territory of usual residence
Counting: Number of Income unit care level

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 72 (18 columns x 4 rows).

Number of Income unit care level		Number of Income unit care level (000's)							
Flag to indicate if any child in family used care usually		At least one child in the family used care usually							
State or territory of usual residence		New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory
Type of care used by the family		↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓
All formal care		197.7	163.9	144.5	42.5	49.6	13.2	5.9	
All informal care		307.1	222.4	172.8	81.0	104.9	26.3	7.3	
Preschool		71.5	89.4	37.9	22.4	34.7	7.7	2.6	

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FIELD EXCLUSION RULES

To ensure confidentiality, TableBuilder prevents the cross-tabulation of certain variables which could result in respondents being identified. These are known as field exclusion rules. If field exclusion rules exist for certain variables, users will see the following message: "Maximum number of fields in exclusion group exceeded."

In the CEaCS TableBuilder there are restrictions with the number of geographic data items that can be added to the same table.

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Data item list



DATA ITEM LISTS

The 2011 Childhood Education and Care Survey comprised a questionnaire of 20 modules and approximately 350 questions which resulted in around 230 output data items. Including the data items obtained from the Labour Force Survey there are approximately 280 data items in total. Not all the data items are included in the microdata products.

Users intending to purchase either the CURF or TableBuilder should consult the individual data item lists to ensure that the data they require, and the level of detail they need, are available in these products.

CURF DATA

Subject to the limitations of the sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to interrogate the CURF, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

The CURF file contains 162 data items. For a complete list of all data items included on the CURF, including relevant population and classification details, refer to the Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab. The data item spreadsheet has 5 worksheets:

- table of contents
- data items on income unit characteristics
- data items on income unit care characteristics
- data items on child characteristics
- data items on child care characteristics.

The populations used in the derivations of the data items are listed in the Population column of each data item.

TABLEBUILDER DATA

Data items on the TableBuilder are available for cross tabulation, although some restrictions may apply.

The TableBuilder file contains 211 data items. For a complete list of all the data items, including relevant population and classification details, refer to the Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab. The data item spreadsheet has 5 worksheets:

- table of contents
- data items on income unit characteristics
- data items on income unit care characteristics
- data items on child characteristics
- data items on child care characteristics.

The populations used in the derivations of the data items are listed in the Population column of each data item.

Conditions of use



CONDITIONS OF USE

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Census and Statistics Act 1905 includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering our questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure' and 'Microdata' on our web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#).

CURF DATA

The release of the CURF data is authorised by Clause 7 of the Statistics Determination made under subsection 13(1) of the Census and Statistics Act 1905. The release of a CURF must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This legislation allows the Australian Statistician to approve release of unit record data. All CURFs released have been approved by the Statistician. Prior to being granted access to CURFs, each organisation's Responsible Officer must submit a CURF Undertaking to the ABS. The CURF Undertaking is required by legislation and states that, prior to CURFs being released to an organisation, a Responsible Officer must undertake to ensure that the organisation will abide by the conditions of use of CURFs. Individual users are bound by the undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the conditions and restrictions in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs. Any breach of the CURF Undertaking may result in withdrawal of service to individuals and/or organisations. Further information is contained in the Consequences of Failing to Comply web page.

TABLEBUILDER

In accordance with the Census and Statistics Act 1905, data in TableBuilder are subjected to a confidentiality process before release. The release of microdata must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. This confidentiality process is applied to avoid releasing information that may lead to the identification of individuals, families, households, dwellings or businesses.

Prior to being granted access to TableBuilder users must agree to the following ABS Terms and Conditions of TableBuilder Access:

- understand that the ABS has taken great care to ensure that the information on the survey output record file is correct and as accurate as possible and understand that ABS does not guarantee, or accept any legal liability whatsoever arising from, or connected to, the use of any material contained within, or derived from TableBuilder
- understand that all data extracted from the Survey Output Record File through TableBuilder will be confidentialised prior to being supplied and that as a result, no reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors
- users inform the ABS, through their Contact Officer, upon leaving their organisation so that their access is disabled
- not to provide their TableBuilder user ID and password access to any other person or organisation.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be emailed to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

PRICE

Microdata access is priced according to ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details refer to ABS Pricing Policy on the ABS website. For microdata prices refer to the Microdata prices web page.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS

Clients wishing to access the microdata should read the How to Apply for Microdata web page. Clients should familiarise themselves with the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs, User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory and/or the User Manual: TableBuilder, depending on the product or products being accessed. Other related microdata information is available via the Microdata web pages.

To apply for access to the CURF, register and apply in MiCRO.

To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

Further information on access steps can be found on the How to Apply for Microdata page on the ABS web site.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to microdata. For further information, university clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement web page.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Microdata Entry page on the ABS website contains links to microdata related information to assist users to understand and access microdata. For further information users should email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 7714.

About this Release

The following microdata products are available from the Childhood Education and Care Survey, 2011:

- Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL)
- TableBuilder.

To apply for access to the Basic CURF, register and apply in MiCRO.
To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in Registration Centre.

These products provide data on child care arrangements for children aged 0–12 years, early childhood education and learning for children aged 0–8 years, some aspects of families' requirements for formal care or preschool and the education, income and working arrangements of parents with children aged 0–12 years. A detailed list of data items is available on the Downloads tab.

The microdata enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure the integrity of data and maintain confidentiality of respondents. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories. Differences in data items may exist between microdata products.

Approved users can combine information about child care arrangements, children and parents to enable in-depth studies of child care issues. CEaCS files are arranged in a hierarchy, made up of the following 4 levels:

1. Income unit
2. Income unit care
3. Child
4. Child care

History of changes

8 July 2014

TableBuilder dataset file has been reissued to correct errors identified in the previous data associated with the following items:

All reasons (additional) preschool currently required
All reasons (additional) formal care currently required
All reasons (additional) formal care and/or preschool currently required
Whether (additional) preschool and/or formal care is currently required
Early childhood learning usually attended
Main reason for choosing that preschool
Main reason (additional) preschool currently required
Main reason (additional) formal care currently required
Main reason (additional) formal care and/or preschool currently required.

All other items in the TableBuilder are not affected.

19 June 2013

TableBuilder product released.

5 November 2012

A replacement data item list has been issued to correct the population relating to the following data item 'Number of hours a parent spent with child reading from a book or telling stories last week'.

25 October 2012

The title of this product has changed to Microdata: Childhood Education and Care, Australia to incorporate the Childhood Education and Care TableBuilder. This product replaces the Technical Manual: Childhood Education and Care, Expanded CURF, Australia (cat. no. 4402.0.55.002).

Explanatory Notes

Glossary

GLOSSARY

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Additional formal care or preschool required

Includes instances in which children were already attending care or preschool and parents wished for them to attend more, as well as instances in which children did not attend any care or preschool and parents wished for them to attend. Does not include instances in which parents/guardians wish to change service providers but not type or quantity of service.

Approved care

Child care providers that meet the requirements of the Australian Government quality assurance system, such as having a license to operate; qualified and trained staff; and meeting health, safety and other quality standards.

Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)

The ASCED is a national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian education system: that is, schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. From 2001, ASCED replaced a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: **Level of Education** and **Field of Education**. See [Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001](#) (cat. no. 1272.0).

Before and after school care

Estimates of children's attendance at before and after school care include children who attend only before school care, only after school care, or both.

Child Care Benefit (CCB)

Assistance in the form of a payment made by the Australian Government to help with the costs of child care for families who use approved child care.

Child Care Rebate (CCR)

The Child Care Rebate covers 50 per cent of out-of-pocket child care expenses for approved child care up to the maximum legislated amount per year per child. The Child Care Rebate is available to families who have used approved child care during the year, been eligible for Child Care Benefit and have passed the work, training, study test some time during the week the approved care was provided.

Cost of care

Within this publication, cost of care is reported as the net cost of care to the parents after the CCB and CCR have been deducted.

Country of birth

Country of birth has been classified according to the [Standard Australian Classification of Countries \(SACC\), 1998 \(Second Edition\)](#) (cat. no. 1269.0).

Couple family

A couple family is based on two persons who are in a couple relationship and who are usually resident in the same household. To be included in CEaCS, a couple family must also have at least one child aged 0-12 usually resident. A 'couple relationship' includes same-sex couples.

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Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. Only families with children aged 0-12 years are included in CEaCS.

Family day care

A type of formal care provided in caregivers' homes.

Formal care

Regulated care away from the child's home. The main types of formal care are before and/or after school care, long day care, family day care and occasional care.

Full-time/part-time workers

Full-time workers are employed persons who usually work 35 hours or more a week as well as those who, although they usually work less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week. Part-time workers are employed persons who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the reference week.

Government establishment

Includes any preschool/kindergarten conducted or managed principally by a state, territory or federal government agency.

Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD)

A SEIFA index derived from Census variables related to disadvantage, such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and dwellings without motor vehicles. For further information about the SEIFA, see Information Paper: An Introduction to Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, (SEIFA), 2006 (cat. no. 2039.0).

Informal care

Unregulated care either in the child's home or elsewhere. It includes care by (step) brothers or sisters, care by grandparents, care by other relatives (including a non-resident parent) and care by other (unrelated) people such as friends, neighbours, nannies or babysitters. It may be paid or unpaid.

Informal learning

Unstructured learning activities that occur in daily life, such as reading, musical activities and physical activities.

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Last week

The survey reference week. For interviews conducted between 5 and 11 June 2011, the reference week was 29 May to 4 June. For interviews conducted between 12 and 18 June, the reference week was 5 to 11 June, with the exception of those in Tasmania where the reference week was 29 May to 4 June to avoid Tasmanian school holidays.

Long day care

Regulated care that is provided to children in a dedicated centre.

Mean

The value often referred to as the 'average'. The mean of a variable is calculated by summing the values of all observations in a data set and then dividing by the number of observations in the set.

Median

The value that divides the population into two equal parts.

Non-government establishment

Includes any preschool/kindergarten conducted or managed by a non-government institution or organisation, including a Catholic school or preschool/kindergarten or an independent school or preschool/kindergarten.

Non-resident parent

A child's natural or adoptive parent who is not usually resident in the same household as the child.

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Occasional care

A type of formal care provided mainly for families who require short term care for their children.

One parent family

A one parent family is based on a person who has no spouse or partner usually present in the household, but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one child usually resident in the household. To be included in CEaCS, a one parent family must have at least one child aged 0-12 years usually resident.

Other person care

Informal care by people who are not related to the child including friends, babysitters and nannies.

Other relative care

Informal care by relatives of the child excluding parents, (step) brothers and sisters and grandparents.

Parent/guardian

Natural, step, foster or adoptive parents are considered parents in CEaCS. A guardian is a person who has the designated responsibility for a minor child, whether or not it is a legal or informal arrangement. In this publication, when the term 'parent' is used, this includes guardians.

Preschool

A service that provides educational and development programs for children prior to commencing full-time primary education. These are referred to by different terminology in different parts of Australia, including kindergarten and pre-prep.

Preschool program in a long day care

A program in a long day care centre structured to meet specific early childhood education objectives.

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Registered care

Child care provided by persons and institutions who are registered with the Family Assistance Office.

Remoteness

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) was used to define remoteness. The Remoteness Structure is described in detail in the publication Statistical Geography Volume 1 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), July 2011 (cat. no. 1216.0).

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

A suite of indexes created from 2006 Census data. For each index, every geographic area in Australia is given a SEIFA number which shows how disadvantaged that area is compared with other areas in Australia. Each index summarises a different set of social and economic variables. For further information about the SEIFAs, see Information Paper: An Introduction to Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas, (SEIFA), 2006 (cat. no. 2039.0).

Weekly income of parents

Total gross income received from all sources by the parent or parents in the family.

Work arrangements

Arrangements such as flexible working hours, or working from home, used by employed parents to assist them to

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
CCB	Child Care Benefit
CCR	Child Care Rebate (formerly known as Child Care Tax Rebate: CCTR)
CEaCS	Childhood Education and Care Survey
CURF	confidentialised unit record file
ECEC	Early Childhood Education and Care
FTB	Family Tax Benefit
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
LFS	Labour Force Survey
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
SE	standard error
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

Quality declaration

QUALITY DECLARATION

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Table Builder and Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the Statistics Determination section of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (CSA). This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. More information on the confidentiality practices associated with TableBuilder and CURFs can be found at the Survey Data Confidentiality and About CURF Microdata pages respectively.

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

Microdata from the Childhood Education and Care Survey 2011 are available as an Expanded CURF and in TableBuilder. The microdata contains information about child care arrangements and early childhood education for children between 0–12 years of age.

This survey was conducted as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As a result, persons excluded from the LFS were also excluded from this survey (see Explanatory Notes of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for standard LFS exclusions). Additional exclusions from this survey were very remote areas of Australia, any non-residents visiting Australia (diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia, or non-residents otherwise visiting Australia), and residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals, hotels and motels.

Information collected in the survey included: usual care arrangements (types of care, duration and cost); care arrangements used in the survey reference week (types of care, duration and cost); attendance at a preschool or preschool program (usually or in the survey reference week); need for additional formal care or preschool; early childhood education and learning activities.

For more information, see Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2011 (cat. no. 4402.0).

TIMELINESS

The Childhood Education and Care survey is conducted throughout Australia every three years in June, as a supplement to the monthly LFS. The ABS has been conducting similar surveys since 1969. Until 2005, these were known as the Child Care Surveys. Data from the most recent survey (June 2011), in the form of html and data cubes, were released on 4 May 2012. The microdata products are generally released approximately 16 months after enumeration is completed.

ACCURACY

The microdata contains finer levels of detail for data items than what is otherwise published in other formats, for example, in Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2011 (cat. no. 4402.0). For more information on the level of detail provided, please see the associated data item lists.

Steps to confidentialise the data made available on the CURF and in TableBuilder are taken in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents selected in the survey. As a result it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from the microdata with other published statistics. Further information about the steps taken to confidentialise the microdata is available through the following links:

[CURF confidentiality](#)

[TableBuilder confidentiality](#)

COHERENCE

Results from the previous survey on this topic were published in Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2008 (cat. no. 4402.0). Data on earlier topics can be found on the Past and Future Releases page or by contacting the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

The ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey. Sound survey practice, however, requires ongoing development to maintain the integrity of the data. For changes between iterations of the survey, please refer to the Explanatory Notes section of Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2011 (cat. no. 4402.0).

INTERPRETABILITY

The information within this product should be referred to when using the microdata. It contains information including Survey methodology, File structure, Using the CURF, Using the TableBuilder, Conditions of use and the Data item lists.

The Explanatory Notes section of Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2011 (cat. no. 4402.0) includes information on terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with the Childhood Education and Care survey.

ACCESSIBILITY

Microdata products are available to approved users. Users wishing to access the microdata should read the How to apply for Microdata web page, before applying for access through MiCRO and/or the Registration Centre. Users should also familiarise themselves with information available via the Microdata Entry Page.

A full list of available microdata can be viewed via the List of expected and available Microdata. More detail regarding types and modes of access to CURFs can be found on the CURF Access Modes and Levels of Detail web page.

CEaCS 2011 TableBuilder microdata can be accessed using the TableBuilder product. The Expanded CURF can be accessed through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL).

Any questions regarding access to microdata can be forwarded to microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone (02) 6252 7714.

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